

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6228

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: SOMOZA'S COMMENTS ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SOMOZA IN HIS APRIL 4 PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN HIS OPENING PREPARED REMARKS. THERE FOLLOWS IN INFORMAL TRANSLATION THE TEXT OF SOMOZA'S OPENING STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH MUCH INTEREST THE REPORTS ON THE VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND I AM PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE HIS PRAISE-WORTHY PREOCCUPATION FOR THE DIFFICULTIES OF OUR HEMISPHERE, AND HIS UNTIRING SEARCH FOR URGENT SOLUTIONS TO THE MULTIPLE PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT HUMANITY. MY GOVERNMENT SHARES THIS PREOCCUPATION AND ALWAYS HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED AT ALL INTERNATIONAL LEVELS IN THE SEARCH FOR JUST SOLUTIONS.

WE RECOGNIZE THE INESTIMABLE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THOSE OBJECTIVES SO ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, THAT ALL MEN CAN DEVELOP, BE FREE, AND RESPECTED.

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IN PARTICULAR, I AM PLEASED BY THE REAFFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER WITH RESPECT TO THE POLICY OF NONINTERVENTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS. THIS POLICY IS THE KEYSTONE TO OUR HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS AND IS CONSECRATED BY THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE BASED ON OUR PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO VENEZUELA A JOURNALIST INSISTED THAT HE ADDRESS THE COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN

RIGHT IN NICARAGUA. PRESIDENT CARTER WAS CATEGORIC, ASSERTING HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN WHATEVER PART OF THE WORLD, WHICH WAS REAFFIRMED BY HIS HOST. PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS REPLY IN NO WAY SUPPORTED SUCH COMPLAINTS NOR DECLARED THAT THERE HAD BEEN VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY. FOR THIS ACT OF JUSTICE AND EQUANIMITY I EXPRESS MY RECOGNITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND APPLAUD HIS FIRM ADHESION TO THE POLICY OF NONINTERVENTION. EVEN WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSED HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA, HE DID NOT EXCEED IN ANY MEASURE THAT OF MYSELF. THE ACTIONS WHICH MY ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN IN NICARAGUA,

IF THEY ARE ANALYZED OBJECTIVELY, CONFIRM MY EXPRESSED PREOCCUPATION. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIFICALLY, IT IS CONVENIENT TO REMEMBER THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY IN CONTACT WITH THE IAHR. OUR CULTURE IN NICARAGUA IS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT. WE, THEREFORE, CONSIDER THAT WHERE PHILOSOPHIC OR OTHER DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLE, THESE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED FREELY. WE DO NOT ACCEPT NOR WILL WE ACCEPT IN ANY WAY INTERVENTION IN OUR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. OUR PROBLEMS ARE NICARAGUAN, WHICH REQUIRE SOLUTIONS BY NICARAGUANS. PRESIDENT CARTER AS A STATESMAN RECOGNIZES THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE TO SEEK THEIR OWN PATHS AND ACHIEVE THEIR DESTINIES. THE UNITED STATES WITH ITS FREE AND GLORIOUS PAST HAS TO RECOGNIZE THIS MORE THAN WHATEVER OTHER NATION. MY GOVERNMENT HAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR HEMISPHERIC NICARAGUA ALWAYS HAS SHARED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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IDEALS OF OUR AMERICAN CULTURE. IN TIMES OF INTERNATIONAL CRISIS WE HAVE ALWAYS DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF MAN TO BE FREE. I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE YOU A FEW WORDS WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER USED RECENTLY WHEN HE WAS IN BRAZIL LAST WEEK: QUOTE. AFTER SO MANY YEARS WE STILL CAN CALL EACH OTHER FRIENDS. FOR THAT TIE WE REMEMBER SACRIFICES WHICH WE MADE JOINTLY IN A COMMON EFFORT AND THIS IMPLIES THE RIGHT TO DISAGREE EVEN STRONGLY ON OCCASIONS WITHOUT BITTERNESS OR SUSPICION. UNQUOTE. NICARAGUA IS ACTUALLY COMMITTED TO PLANS FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WILL IMPROVE EVEN MORE THE WELFARE OF EACH AND EVERY CITIZEN. MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE THIS AND TO RESIST WHATEVER ATTEMPT BY THOSE WHO TRY TO DIMINSH OR ELIMINATE THE RIGHTS OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE WITH FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES AND STERILE POLICY OF VIOLENCE. SOLAUN

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